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clearly stated, but may be dug out of the mounds of fact placed by the author at the disposal of the student, leaving it to the latter to dig. Very little importance is placed by the author on glacial action. Not that he would disregard it, but his predilection is manifestly in favour of other forces. He, and perhaps justly, attributes to glacial and other erosions only a modifying, not a revolutionary, influence on the surface.

Very important are the suggestions which the author makes in regard to mineralogical changes in the rocks. He intimates that the metamorphosis of rocks has not only been going on in the past, producing in course of time altered mineralogical combinations, but that, slowly and imperceptibly, it continues to-day. There is a constant activity going on in the Alpine masses, rigid and immovable as they appear; displacements; depletions and accumulations elsewhere. The force of compression varies, and thus slowly modifies the chemical composition of the rock by alternate increase and decrease of temperature, disintegrating certain compounds and slowly forming new ones, in the course of long periods of time.

A. F. B.

**Navigating the Air. By the Aero Club of America.** xli and 259 pp., and Many Photographs and Diagrams. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, 1907.

This is a scientific statement of the progress of aeronautical science up to the year 1907. Such a book as this was needed. It has gathered together the reports of aeronautical experiments; tells of years of investigation and patient effort, describes the inventions that have come from the thought and work of many men, and gives a panoramic history of aeronautics in this country and in Europe. Some twenty different writers, each an expert in the matters which he discusses, have contributed to make this volume. Among the authors are the Wright Brothers, who seem to have demonstrated that air navigation may be placed on a practical basis; Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, Lieut. Frank P. Lahm, who won the First Annual Aeronautic Cup race for the Aero Club of America; Prof. W. H. Pickering, Mr. Israel Ludlow, Prof. A. Lawrence Rotch, Oliver L. Fassig, Prof. David Todd, and others. The book is essential to all who desire to be well-informed concerning the progress of aeronautics. So much of it is non-technical, that the volume will interest the general reader.

**Burma.—A Handbook of Practical Information. By Sir J. George Scott.** x and 520 pp., Map, 64 Illustrations from half-tones, Appendices, Bibliography, and Index. Alexander Moring, Ltd., London, 1906. (Price, 10s. 6d.)

Part I treats of the geography, fauna, flora, geology, and races of Burma; Part II of its government, education, and history; Part III of its industries, trade, transportation, currency, weights and measures; Part IV, of its archæology, architecture, art, and music; Part V of its religion (Buddhism); Part VI of its language and literature; and Part VII gives hints to visitors. In the appendices are more detailed descriptions of the political divisions, of Upper and Lower Burma, and the Shan States, lists of the commoner fauna, flora, metals, minerals and gems, and a bibliography. The book is not large but neither is it a mere compendium. It is written in narrative style and is thoroughly readable. The author's competency as an authority and writer on Burma has long been recognized and the book will fill the need for a work that is not bulky, but contains the essential facts about the country and its peoples.